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Worldwide Effort Being Launched to 'Destabilize' CIA

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Perched just below Dupont Circle is the apparently temporary headquarters of a new international campaign to "destabilize" the Central Intelligence Agency.

The anti-CIA announcements are being made in Havana, but the vehicle is a magazine being put together by former CIA officer Philip Agee, "the agency's No. 1 nemesis," and a number of colleagues bent on "exposing CIA personnel and operations whenever and wherever we find them."

The new publication, which is expected to appear roughly six times a year, is called the Covert Action Information Bulletin, and its tone is uncompromising. Urging a worldwide effort to print the name of anyone who works abroad for the CIA, Agee advises readers of the premier issue not to stop there. Once the names have been made public, he recommends:

"Then organize public demonstrations against those named—both at the American embassy and at their homes—and, where possible, bring pressure on the government to throw them out. Peaceful protest will do the job. And when it doesn't, those whom the CIA has most oppressed will find other ways of fighting back."

Agee concludes: "We can all aid this struggle, together with the struggle for socialism in the United States itself."

"This thing is incredible . . . unbelievable," exclaimed CIA spokesman Herbert Hetu. "The motivation of these people has got to be more than that they're just ticked off at the CIA."

"This goes beyond whistle-blowing," Hetu added of the magazine. "Whistle-blowing is supposed to be directed at wrongdoing. These people are operating under the overall pretext that everything we do is wrong."

Expelled from Britain and a succession of other Western European countries over the past two years, Agee is reportedly living in Rome, but the magazine is being published here by C. I. Publications Inc., a nonprofit corporation set up in the District on Dec. 22.

Its incorporators, directors and officers are William H. Schaap, a lawyer and editor in chief of a newsletter called the Military Law Reporter; Ellen Ray, a colleague of Schaap on various boards and projects; and Louis Wolf, coeditor with Agee of a new book entitled "Dirty Work: The CIA in Western Europe."

It is designed partly as a how-to-do-it book aimed at "breaking the 'cover' of thousands of CIA agents around the world."

The headquarters of C. I. Publications Inc. is given in the incorporation papers as a sixth-floor suite in the Dupont Circle Building at 1346 Connecticut Ave. NW, which houses the Public Law Education Institute.

The institute's president, Thomas P. Alder, told a reporter yesterday he had not been aware of Schaap's use of the address for his "sideshow" magazine and indicated he would put a stop to it. The institute publishes the Military Law Reporter Schaap edits.

The financing for the new undertaking was unclear. Alder said Schaap, Agee and all the others who could answer such questions were still in Havana, where they have been taking part in an anti-CIA tribunal that began last week as part of the International Youth Festival.

In announcing the plans there, Agee and Schaap have said they hope to establish a worldwide network of "researchers" who will keep CIA officers under close scrutiny and forward their names to the Covert Action Information Bulletin for publication. Others associated with Agee in the so-called "CIA Watch" are James and Elsie Wilcott, former CIA finance and support personnel who are also taking part in the Havana festival.

In a joint statement in the first (July 1978) issue of Covert Action entitled "Who We Are," Agee and the others describe the magazine as a successor to Counter-Spy, which went out of business a year and a half ago.

Counter-Spy folded after a welter of controversy over the 1975 assassination in Athens of CIA station chief Richard S. Welch. The magazine had earlier listed Welch's name as a CIA official stationed in Peru.

Unlike Counter-Spy, Agee and the others said in the first issue of Covert Action, "We are confident that there will be sufficient subscribers to make this publication a permanent weapon in the fight against the CIA, the FBI, military intelligence and all the other instruments of U.S. imperialist oppression throughout the world."

According to John H. Rees, editor of a conservative newsletter called Information Digest and Washington correspondent for the Review of the News magazine (originally put out by the John Birch Society), Schaap is a member of the National Lawyers Guild, and, with Ray, served on the Counter-Spy magazine advisory board. The two also participated together in the National Lawyers Guild's Southeast Asia Military Law Project and served as the guild's observers in February 1977 at the Baader-Meinhof trials in Stammheim. Rees reported in Information Digest's latest issue.

Several hundred copies of Covert Action were reportedly sent from Washington, and more were distributed free in Havana.